(d) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government would increase it in order to reduce burden on finances of Oil Corporations/ Oil Pool Account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Methodology put in place to work out dealers commission, ensures reasonable return for investment in both fixed assets and working capital. The current rates of dealers commission have been fixed considering a rate of return of 13.56% on working capital and 17.91% on investment in fixed assets.

A sample study, carried out in 1996-97, of retail outlets located in various classes of markets, showed that in city markets the average investment is Rs. 5.26 lakhs and in highways markets, average investment is Rs. 3.96 lakhs. This includes cost of land, structures, furniture etc. (excluding pumps and tanks).

(c) and (d) The rates of service station-wise licence fee are fixed taking into consideration the investment of the oil companies in the form of storage, infrastructure and cost of land on an average basis.

Conditions for transportation of LNG into India

1622. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that petronet LNG have put impossible and tough conditions for transportation of LNG into India through global bids; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Oil and natural gas reserves in the country

†1623. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
PROF. RAM BAKHSH SINGH VARMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) what is the number of those places in the country where oil and natural gas reserves have been found during last three years, Statewise details thereof;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to make the country selfreliant in the matter of natural substances like oil and natural gas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) During the last three years from 1996-97 to 1998-99, about 40 new oil and gas structures/finds have been discovered in the states of Assam, Andhra Pradesh Gujarat, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu as also in Western offshore.

(b) and (c) Various short-term and long term-measures taken to increase the production of oil and gas are:—

(i) Optimizing production from existing fields through better reservoir management, 3-D seismic surveys, infill drilling, pressure maintenance, installation/optimisation of artificial lift system and use of advanced and cost effective technologies and improvement in recovery factor.

(ii) Faster development of newly discovered oilfields.

(iii) Finding new hydrocarbon reserves through intensified exploration activities such as—

— Exploration at greater depths in existing fields.

— Extending exploration activities to deep waters and frontier areas.

— Increased private participation in exploration activities through implementation of New Exploration Licensing Policy.

Participation of Indian Shipping Companies for transportation of LNG

1624. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Shipping Companies have been knowingly kept-out from global bids for transportation of LNG from outside India to our country by M/s Petronet LNG;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and